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PPP to amend constitution to ensure members become voters

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - The People's Progressive Party (PPP) will amend its constitution to ensure every member becomes a registered voter, president Datuk M. Kayveas said today.

He said the PPP's annual general assembly on Oct 26 at Putra World Trade Centre was expected to table and pass the amendment.

Once tabled, the amendment will make it compulsory for each new member to register as a voter.

He said members could either register as voters before or after joining the party.

"However, once they join the PPP, they must become voters," he said at the Parliament lobby today.

"At the last elections, PPP had 368,715 registered members but only 90 per cent were voters. The remaining 10 per cent represent a lot of lost votes."

The 10 per cent who have yet to register as voters would be advised to do so as soon as possible.

Kayveas also said that the PPP's general assembly, originally scheduled for Oct 28, had been brought forward to Oct 26 to accommodate Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's schedule.

"Dr Mahathir will be going to Indonesia after the Apec summit in Bangkok. After that he'll be heading to Papua New Guinea before returning on Oct 25."

Dr Mahathir will open the assembly. His deputy, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, will also be present.

Kayveas added that the PPP Wanita and Youth assembly which was scheduled for Oct 27 would be postponed to a later date in December but the exact date had not been finalised. He said the actual date for the assembly of the two wings would depend on Barisan Nasional Wanita chairman Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz and Youth chairman Datuk Hishammuddin Hussein's schedules as they will open the PPP Wanita and Youth assembly respectively.

He said this year's assembly would be one of the last events attended by Dr Mahathir before he retires as the Prime Minister and the party plans to honour him in "PPP's unique style".